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10 MS. JOHNSON: My name is Abby Johnson. I'm  
11 the Nuclear Waste Adviser for Eureka County, Nevada.  
12 I'm speaking on behalf of Eureka County tonight, and  
13 tonight we're going to focus on some process issues.  
14 The first process issue is, it would be very helpful  
15 when you call somebody's name, to also say what their  
16 number is.

17 MODERATOR LAWSON: 19.

18 MS. JOHNSON: I know that now. But that  
19 would help so people can anticipate when they should be  
20 in the room to speak.

21 MODERATOR LAWSON: Good.

22 MS. JOHNSON: You've already heard rather  
23 articulately from Crescent Valley, Eureka County  
24 resident Joseph Caruthers who was at the Elko site  
25 about the impacts of building a nuclear waste rail line

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1 through our county. So I'm not going to talk about  
2 that. I have wanted all night to have a point of order  
3 concerning Section 114 A 1, of the Nuclear Waste Policy  
4 Act, which says the Secretary shall hold public  
5 hearings in the vicinity of the Yucca Mountain Site,

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6 for the purpose of informing the residents of the area  
7 of such consideration and receiving their comments  
8 regarding the possible recommendation of such site. I  
9 think that the Facilitator and the Board should take  
10 comments from people in the vicinity of the site, that  
11 is Nevada, California, rather than people who are from  
12 other parts of the country. I talked to a woman who  
13 had to go to work on the swing shift, and so she was  
14 unable to stay. I've talked to parents who have had to  
15 leave and put their children to bed, which is the right  
16 thing to do. But, they should not be sitting here  
17 waiting to talk when people who are not in the vicinity  
18 of the site get to talk. I think it's wrong.

19 (APPLAUSE)

20 It is appalling that DOE would choose to do  
21 such a bad job of conducting these  
22 congressionally-mandated hearings. You have had 14  
23 years to prepare for these hearings. And this is the  
24 best you can do?

25 (APPLAUSE)

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1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Amen.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Now when you want to tell

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3 Nevadans that you're ready to make Yucca Mountain a  
4 permanent nuclear waste repository, and ask them what  
5 they think, you don't have the courage to do the job  
6 right. It takes courage to tell the Secretary of  
7 Energy, the President, and the nation that Yucca  
8 Mountain is a bad site.

9 (APPLAUSE)

10 It takes courage -- it takes courage for the  
11 Secretary of Energy to personally face the people of  
12 Nevada. And hear and read their comments. I  
13 understand that he'll be reading compiled comments with  
14 staff rebuttals, those yeah-buts. He won't actually be  
15 reading the transcript of these meetings. I may be  
16 wrong, but that's what I was told by DOE. And it takes  
17 real courage, real, real courage to rewrite your own  
18 siting guidelines so that the repository will not be  
19 disqualified, which it would be under your existing  
20 guidelines. Your handling of this hearing process is  
21 an analogy to the entire project. You've bungled these  
22 hearings, and yet you want us to trust that you can  
23 dispose of nuclear waste safely.

24 (APPLAUSE)

25 The truth is, the truth is that Yucca

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- 1 Mountain will not contain the deadly radiation for its
- 2 hazardous life. As I tell my son, end of discussion.
- 3 DOE, you are the weakest link. Good-bye.

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